

"disappointed" in his efforts to forge new government (Lon Nol reportedly rejected two or three names).

R041

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CAMBODIA

BY DENIS D. GRAY

PHNOM PENH (AP) -- GOVERNMENT FORCES BATTLED INSURGENTS ON ALL FRONT AROUND THE BESIEGED CAMBODIAN CAPITAL FRIDAY.

MILITARY SOURCES SAID GOVERNMENT TROOPS MADE SWEEPS ALONG THE EAST BANK ACROSS FROM PHNOM PENH, WHERE 4,000 INSURGENTS HAVE REPORTEDLY GATHERED, AND IN THE AREA NORTHWEST OF THE CITY WHERE INSURGENTS HAVE BEEN SHELING THE AIRPORT.

AT LEAST 70 KHMER ROUGE WERE REPORTED KILLED AND A NUMBER OF THEIR WEAPONS CAPTURED IN THE OPERATIONS THURSDAY AND FRIDAY.

THE INSURGENTS MAINTAINED HEAVY PRESSURE AGAINST NEAK LUONG AND NEARBY BANAM, THE LAST TWO GOVERNMENT-HELD TOWNS ON THE LOWER MEKONG RIVER. THE RIVER WAS THE CHIEF SUPPLY ROUTE FOR THE BESIEGED CAPITAL UNTIL IT WAS CLOSED BY INSURGENT MINES IN LATE JANUARY.

THE INSURGENTS MOUNTED CONSTANT GROUND, ARTILLERY AND MORTAR ATTACKS AGAINST THE DEFENSIVE PERIMETER OF NEAK LUONG THURSDAY AND SET FIRE TO HOMES ON THE ROAD TO BANAM, MILITARY SOURCES SAID.

IN THE CAPITAL, ONE PERSON WAS KILLED AND FOUR WOUNDED WHEN TWO CHINESE-MADE ROCKETS HIT NEAR THE OLD ROYAL PALACE EARLY FRIDAY. TWO OTHER ROCKETS FELL ON THE CITY'S POCHENTONH AIRPORT BUT NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE WERE REPORTED.

AS THE GOVERNMENT'S MILITARY POSITION DETERIORATED, THE SIX-MAN BRITISH MISSION PREPARED TO FLY TO SAIGON FRIDAY AFTERNOON ON A U.S. CARIBOU AIRCRAFT, BRITISH DIPLOMATS SAID. THE MOVE WILL NOT ALTER BRITAIN'S POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT.

THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN SAIGON HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PHNOM PENH GOVERNMENT.

THE U.S. EMBASSY HAS OFFERED AIR EVACUATION HELP TO ALL FOREIGN MISSIONS IN THE CAMBODIAN CAPITAL, A U.S. EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAID.  
(MORE)

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PHNOM PENH -- CAMBODIA 2

MEANTIME, PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET SAID IN AN INTERVIEW HE WAS "DISAPPOINTED"

IN HIS EFFORTS TO FORGE A NEW GOVERNMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SUBMITTED A LIST OF CABINET MINISTERS TO PRESIDENT LON NOL LATE THURSDAY NIGHT, BUT LON NOL REPORTEDLY REJECTED TWO OR THREE OF THE NAMES. LONG BORET SAID HE WOULD SUBMIT ANOTHER LIST FRIDAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ASSIGNED LAST WEEK TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT, BUT POLITICAL INFIGHTING HAS DELAYED PROGRESS AS VARIOUS POLITICAL AND MILITARY FACTIONS MANEUVER FOR POWER.

(END)

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